

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NICOSI 00756 180715Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 /021 W
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TO USDOC WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5517
AMEMBASSY ATHENS

UNCLAS NICOSIA 0756

ATHENS FOR RTDO

MAJOR PROJECT - FOR COMMERCE/MEPD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BENC, BEXP, BTIO, CY
SUBJECT: UPDATE ON IBRD - FINANCED PROJECT - PITSILIA INTEGRATED
RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

REF: 10 FAM 164.1

1. BACKGROUND: PROJECT COVERS AROUND 61,200 HA MAINLY MOUNTAIN, HILL TERRAIN, FOREST. THE POPULATION HAS DECREASED OVER THE YEARS AS PEOPLE HAVE LEFT FOR BETTER ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES IN THE CITIES. THE FIVE YEAR PROJECT DESIGNED TO IMPROVE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, UPGRADE SOCIAL AMENITIES AND DEVELOP PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE IN ORDER TO RETAIN THE PRESENT POPULATION NUMBERING 21,000. TOTAL PROJECT COST FORESEEN AT \$22.2 M WITH DIRECT AND INDIRECT FOREIGN-EXCHANGE COMPONENT ABOUT 55 PER CENT. GOC CALCULATES RATE OF RETURN AT 12-13 PERCENT. CONSTRUCTION TO BEGIN 1978. GOC HAS ALREADY DRILLED 25-30 SUCCESSFUL BOREHOLES. IBRD LOAN AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED JUNE 1977.

2. SCOPE OF PROJECT:
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A) CONSTRUCTION ONE EARTH/ROCK-FILL DAM OF CAPACITY.
1.3 MILLION CU. METERS, CONSTRUCT 30 PONDS.
B) IRRIGATION SCHEME FOR TOTAL 1,250 HA.
C) TERRACE 200 HA FOR DRYLAND FARMING.
D) PROVIDE WATER FOR HOMES IN 17 VILLAGES.
E) UPGRADE HEALTH, EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES.
F) IMPROVE ROADS BETWEEN VILLAGES.

G) DEVELOP AGRI-BUSINESS.

3. OPPORTUNITIES FOR U.S. BUSINESS: LOCAL CONTRACTOR CAPABILITIES EXIST FOR ALL CONSTRUCTION; GOC WILL SEEK TO HAVE CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY (LOWER COST) LOCAL FIRMS. GOC PLANS TO HIRE FOREIGN CONSULTANT FOR 12 MAN-MONTHS FOR IRRIGATION SCHEME (APPROX. \$100,000); SMALL SCALE OF CONSULTANCY ROLE PROBABLY WOULD NOT ATTRACT U.S. FIRMS. OPPORTUNITIES FOR U.S. SALES EXIST FOR CERTAIN PRODUCTS AND EQUIPMENT. LOCAL AGENTS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF U.S. FIRMS ARE FULLY AWARE OF OPPORTUNITIES. NOTE: GOC USING NEW U.S. BOREHOLE DRILL COSTING \$300,000 PURCHASED BY GOC (WITH INDIRECT EMBASSY ASSISTANCE). EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE CLOSE CONTACT WITH LOCAL AGENTS/REPS AS OPPORTUNITIES ARE IDENTIFIED. CRAWFORD

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Message Attributes

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Disposition History: n/a
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